

☒ UNCLASSIFIED

☐ INTERNAL
ONLY

☐ CONFIDENTIAL

☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

RENEWAL OF PROJECT AEROOT

FROM:

SR/2/Baltic Section

3256

NO.

DATE:

8 May 1958

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

CSR/2/Baltic Section

2.

3.

CSR/2

4.

5.

SR/COP/FT

6.

7.

SR/2/Baltic Section

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

*Not
submitted*

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 38.8
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

FORM
1 DEC 56

610

USE PREVIOUS
EDITIONS

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Date 7 Jan 58

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/FI Division

ATTENTION : SR/2 Desk

SUBJECT : Renewal of Project AEROOT

1 Nov 56 - 31 Mar 1958

Approval of this project expires on 31 March 1958. If renewal of extension is to be requested, this form should be completed and returned to FI/RQM/RE, through the Area Division Requirements Officer, not later than 1 Mar 58. If a list of disseminations is needed, it will be requested by RQM/RE.

☐ Chief ☐
FI Operations Division

- a. *Number of positive information reports received: 66
- b. *Number of such reports used in disseminations: 31
- c. *Number of positive information disseminations: 36
- d. *Identify, by CS number, any reports derived from audio-surveillance operations.
- e. Production of positive intelligence is (x) a primary objective, () a secondary objective, () a by-product.
- f. If collection action on requirements has been proposed to the field under this project, cite RD numbers: RD A-7058, A-7330, C-1606, G-1003, D-180
- g. Name and extension of case officer:

☐ ☐ Ext. 8256

(Branch)
SR/2

*Since last project renewal date.

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DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Foreign Intelligence

SUBJECT : Request for Renewal of Project AEROOT

1. It is requested that Project AEROOT be renewed for the period 1 April 1958 through 31 March 1959. This is a continuing project of FI and CE operations targeted against the Estonian SSR and Estonian nationals of the USSR. The original AEROOT Project was approved 13 May 1953 under Basic Plan AEBASIN, and has been continued by means of renewals and extensions to 31 March 1958. Pertinent documents are attached. Activities contemplated in the project are subject to expansion and contraction in consonance with requirements, operational opportunities, availability of qualified staff and agent personnel, and access to the targets.

2. Summary of AEROOT accomplishments during the last renewal period, 1 November 1956 to 31 March 1958:

- a. Obtained information from three Soviet Estonians traveling in the West, which was subsequently disseminated. ~~Recruited and briefed an East German (AEROOT 9) for a trip to Estonia, which has not yet materialized.~~
- b. Recruited, trained and dispatched AENEON/14 as contract agent under deep cover in Finland. His mission was to exploit REDSKIN leads obtained from his Finnish contacts and ^{FI} resident Estonian nationals *in Finland*
- c. Spotted AENEON/35 who is now being recruited for development as a resident FI agent for exploitation of REDSKIN ^{Leads} channels in Finland.
- d. Contacted a Soviet Foreign Office employee which resulted in procurement of intelligence of priority interest on the USSR.
- e. Contacted a Soviet Embassy official in Sweden for the purpose of assessment for recruitment in place.
- f. Procured positive and operational intelligence from recent Soviet Estonian defectors through liaison services and through independent efforts.
- g. Elicited information about RIS operations from a Soviet Estonian scholar who we believe to be an RIS co-opted worker. Plans have been made for recontacting this individual and some of his colleagues *when they appear in the West*
- h. Recruited four accommodation addresses in Western Germany for the receipt of mail from the USSR.
- i. Recruited two candidates for repatriation missions to Estonia as resident agents.

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j. From 1 November 1956 to 31 March 1958 sixty-six positive information reports were received of which thirty-one were disseminated.

There were a total of thirty-six positive information disseminations during this period. These reports cover the following subjects:

Atomic Energy; Guided Missiles; Radar Order of Battle; Air, Ground and Naval Forces; Political and Economic; Security Forces; Civilian Defense. Approximately seven positive reports received during the period 1 January to 31 March 1958 are in SR Reports ^{awaiting} pending dissemination.

k. Detected and arranged for interrogation of one RIS agent who came to West Germany in the guise of a refugee from Estonia.

3. Planned Future Activities:

- a. Continue contacts with AEROOT/6 and AENEON/13.
- b. Recruit AENEON/35 as an AEROOT area contract agent in Finland for briefing and debriefing of legal travelers between Finland and the Estonian SSR for procurement of FI and OI.
- c. Continue development of present capabilities for PI and OI as well as spotting, recruiting and training of legal resident agent candidates, and further exploitation of sources of informants.
- d. Press further the scrutinizing of Estonian escapee and refugee cases for possible RIS infiltration and for procurement of CE information.

4. Changes:

No basic changes are contemplated in the objectives from the project outline, approved 2 April 1957, which is attached.

5. The current objectives of the project are the same as during the previous period, 1 November 1956 to 31 March 1958.

6. Operational Personnel:

The following personnel is being used, or is being considered for use, on Project AEROOT:

- a. AEROOT/5, former Estonian journalist, now a resident of West Germany, where he publishes an emigre newspaper. He acts as principal agent for Project AEROOT in West Germany, and is particularly valuable for his clandestine communication with employees of a Soviet Foreign Office element and Trade Mission in East Germany. Operational Clearance C-35273 was granted 1 June 1955.

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- b. AEROOT/8 is an Estonian resident of Ireland, employed as captain or first mate on ocean-going vessels. He serves without pay as spotter, cut-out and recruiter, ^{but is principally a point of contact from AEROOT/8} Operational Clearance C-39792 was granted on 22 November 1955.
- c. AEROOT/9 is an Estonian resident of East Germany who is a contact of AEROOT/5. ^{I believe I would want this. g. 2.} [It is expected that he may travel to the Estonian SSR as a legal traveler, in which case he will be briefed on general political and economic requirements.] POA was ~~granted~~ through 28 April 1958. ~~Operational Approval was requested 7 April 1958 and amended to place AEROOT/9 in the category of a [] Agent.~~ Because of AEROOT/9's association with AEROOT/6, a known co-opted worker of the RIS, he is also suspected of RIS connections. Therefore a review of his use in this project has been initiated. *Extension of VOA*
- d. AENEON/14, born in Estonia, is a naturalized U.S. citizen. He is ^{for one year} serving as a contract agent in Helsinki, Finland, under academic cover. Operational Approval C-48197 was granted 10 September 1956. According to present plans, AENEON/14 will leave Helsinki in September 1958, when it is planned to drop him from the project.
- e. AENEON/17, live letter drop, is a resident of West Germany. Operational Approval C-56692 was granted 29 July 1957.
- f. AENEON/18, live letter drop, is a resident of West Germany. POA C-11428 was granted 15 January 1958.
- g. AENEON/22, live letter drop, ^{is a} resident of West Germany. Operational Approval C-61099 was granted 26 July 1957.
- h. AENEON/23 is a live letter drop in Caracas, Venezuela. Operational Approval was granted 23 October 1957.
- i. AENEON/26, live letter drop, is a resident of West Germany. Operational Approval C-63002 was granted 24 September 1957.
- j. AENEON/28 is a live letter drop in West Germany. Operational Approval was granted 12 March 1958.
- k. AENEON/21 is an Estonian residing in West Germany. Subject is presently under consideration for a repatriation mission to the Estonian SSR. Operational Approval was granted 30 September 1957.

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- l. AENEON/24 is an Estonian residing in West Germany. He is ~~being~~^{with} ~~used in the contact and assessment of~~ AEFLIRTY/3, a Soviet diplomat stationed in Sweden, ~~for possible recruitment in place.~~
Operational Approval C-62656 was granted 23 January 1958.
- m. AENEON/27 is an Estonian residing in West Germany. He is working for AERCOOT/5 as an editorial assistant on the emigre newspaper which AERCOOT/5 uses as a cover for his activities. Operational Approval C-61883 was granted 24 March 1958.
- n. AENEON/35 is an Estonian residing in Finland. He is to be used as a sub-agent of AENEON/14 in the collection of intelligence on the Estonian SSR and is being considered as a potential replacement for AENEON/14, when the latter returns to the United States.
- o. AEFLIRTY/2 is a recent escapee from Estonia to Sweden. Preliminary debriefing has been completed and detailed requirements are being prepared for transmittal to Stockholm. A ninety-day extension of POA C-65575 to 15 July 1958 has been granted.
- p. AEFLIRTY/4 is a recent Estonian defector presently in Norway. Requirements have been submitted to the Norwegian IS for processing. POA C-66819 was granted 29 January 1958.

In addition to the above, the following informers are being utilized under Project AERCOOT:

- a. AENEON/13 is a Soviet Estonian sportsman who travels occasionally to the West for contests. We are in contact with AENEON/13 through AERCOOT/8.
- b. AENEON/25 is an engineer in an Estonian metal factory who came to the West as a tourist in August 1957. He provided information on the Estonian SSR and agreed to contact us on his next trip to the West.
- c. AENEON/6 and AENEON/7 are employees of the Soviet Trade Mission in East Berlin with whom AERCOOT/5, our Principal Agent in West Germany, ^{AERCOOT/9} is in infrequent contact via ~~out-out~~ and directly.
- d. AERCOOT/6, a resident of Estonia and an employee of the Soviet Trade Mission in East Berlin and the Soviet Foreign Office, attempted to recruit AERCOOT/5 for the RLS. However, during his contacts with AERCOOT/5 during 1955 and 1957, AERCOOT/6 furnished operational and positive intelligence on Estonia and the USSR. AERCOOT/5 will continue to maintain contact with AERCOOT/6 for two purposes:

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a) to determine the RIS' intentions toward AEROOT/5 and b) to elicit information from AEROOT/6 on Soviet intentions, capabilities, etc.

7. The following agent personnel, previously carried under Project AEROOT, have been terminated or transferred to other projects:

- a. AEROOT/7, former REDSKIN spotter in Germany, immigrated to the U.S. in April 1957, and is no longer of operational interest to this project.
- b. AENEON/15, an Estonian resident of Germany who was being considered for a repatriation mission, was terminated.
- c. AEROOT/3, previously considered to be in operational reserve in Sweden, has been terminated.
- d. AENEON/16 has been transferred from Project AEROOT to Project AECORSAIR, which will be submitted for approval.
- e. No S/W communications have been received from TIBABEL/1 since March 1957, *in forming TIBABEL/5 that he will no longer use* he is, therefore, of no further operational interest to this project.

SH for communication

8. Cost of the Project:

The estimated total cost of the project from 1 November 1956 through 31 March 1958 (17 months) is \$36,000 as compared with the \$41,925 approved for the period. (March 1958 field expenditures are not yet available. Through February 1958 the expenditures amounted to \$33,776.13.)

Estimated total cost of the project from 1 April 1958 through 31 March 1959, \$24,800, is broken down as follows:

Salaries:

AEROOT/5	\$ 2,250.
AENEON/27 (cover)	750.
AENEON/21 (est.)	1,500. <u>1/</u>
AENEON/14 (through 30 Sept. '58)	4,400.
AENEON/35 (est.)	2,000.
Cost of living differential for AENEON/14 thru 30 September 1958	<u>500.</u>

TOTAL

\$11,400.

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Operational Expenses:

a. Spotting, assessment, recruitment and training of agents outside of Agency facilities

[]

b. Holding expenses prior to recruitment or dispatch for agent personnel overseas

[]

[]

c. Purchase of information:

(1) Compensation, gratuities, travel expenses to informers overseas

[]

(2) Housing, maintenance, travel, for informers, in the course of interrogations and debriefing expenses overseas

[]

(3) Incidental expenses in connection with purchase of information overseas

[]

Total purchase of information

[]

d. Entertainment by Case Officers:

Principal Agents

[]

[]

Total operational expenses

Travel Expenses - case officers and agents

Allowances for safehouse in Frankfurt

Quarters for AENEON/14

Supplies and equipment overseas: cameras, pads, film, S/W material, audio equipment, etc.

[]

GRAND TOTAL

\$ []

No logistic or commo annex is required at this stage due to the fact that the type of W/T and other equipment needed has not yet been firmed up. It is estimated that the type of W/T sets suitable for the contemplated operation will cost about \$1,000. per set.

AENEON 21

1/ It is estimated that a bonus of \$5,000 would be paid to the agent upon completion of his mission or in case of death \$5,000 death benefit, payable to the agent's designated beneficiaries, in the case of each agent.

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AEROOT PROJECT DISSEMINATIONS

Disseminations 1954 - 2

CS 63597

CS 57801

Disseminations 1955 - 12

CSDB 35674 - Sept.

CS 65744 - Aug.

CS 72824 - Aug.

CSDB 36028 - late '55

CS 67306 - June

CS 37910 - April

CS 72824 - June

CS 49924 - April

CSDB 18982 - April

CS 37810 - April

CS 65523 - March

CSDB 35527 - March

Disseminations 1956 - /

CSDB 38808 - Aug 1956

Disseminations 1957 - 10

CS 3/337,253 - Nov. 1957

CSDB 3,634,004 - Nov.

~~CS 3,337,253 - Nov. 1957~~

TDCSDB 3,633,057 - Aug

CS 3,320,713 - Aug.

CS 3,316,531 - Aug.

CS 3,323,188 - July

CS 3,320,718 - July

CS 3,322,453 - July

TDCS 3,321,917 - July

TDCSDB 3,631,283 - March

Disseminations 1958 - 32

CS 3,342,963 - March

CS 3,349,129 - April

CSLT 3,677,889 - January

CSLT 3,351,995 - March

TDCS 3,356,091 - May ✓ (AENEON/14)

TDCS 3,356,408 - May ✓ (AENEON/14)

CS 3,340,306 - January

CS 3,345,011 - February

CS 3,345,288 - February

CS 3,344,599) ✓ (AENEON/14)

3,344,598) - March ✓ (AENEON/14)

3,348,522) ✓ (AENEON/14)

CS 3,353,803 - May

CS 3,342,979 - Feb.

CS 3,342,980 - Feb.

Disseminations - 1958

CS 3,341,889 - January

CS DB 3,634,561 - January

CSDB 3,634,004 - January

TDCSDB 3,633,057 - May

CSDB 3,635,680 ~~424~~ - May

CSDB 3,634,569 - January

CSDB 3,635,649 - May

CS 3,348,554)

CS 3,348,966)

CS 3,348,553) March-

CSLT, 3,679,672) April 1958

CS 3,348,555)

CS 3,348,720)

CS 3,345,288 - February

CS 3,345,407 - February

CS 3,345,011 - February

CS 3,349,359 - March ✓ (AENEON/14)